

AMENDMENT TO MR. TAUZIN'S AMENDMENT
OFFERED BY MS. CAPPS

(Page & line nos. refer to Chairman's Mark of June 17, 2003)

Page 42, line 6, strike "under this subsection" and insert "under paragraph (2)".

Page 42, after line 11, insert the following (and redesignate the succeeding provisions accordingly):

1 “(4) HHS AS PDP SPONSOR FOR A NATIONWIDE PRE-
2 SCRIPTION DRUG PLAN.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the
4 Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
5 Services, shall take such steps as may be necessary to
6 qualify and serve as a PDP sponsor and to offer a pre-
7 scription drug plan that offers standard coverage
8 throughout the United States. Such steps shall be
9 taken in addition to any partial underwriting that may
10 be otherwise required under paragraph (2).

11 “(B) PREMIUM; SOLVENCY; AUTHORITIES.—In
12 carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary—

13 “(i) shall establish a premium that does not
14 exceed the amount of \$35 for months in 2006 and,
15 for months in subsequent years, in the amount
16 specified in this subparagraph for months in the
17 previous year increased by the annual percentage
18 increase described in section 1860D-2(b)(5) for the
19 year involved; and

20 “(ii) shall exercise such authorities (including
21 the use of regional or other pharmaceutical benefit
22 managers) as the Secretary determines necessary
23 to offer the prescription drug plan in the same or
24 a comparable manner as is the case for prescription
25 drug plans offered by private PDP sponsors.